



The President's Daily Brief

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DAILY BRIEF
6 SEPTEMBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

Thieu, after some hesitation, is now said to have approved Nguyen Van Loc (who was originally to have been the vice-presidential candidate on Ky's ticket) as prime minister for the new government. Under the new constitution, however, the prime minister will not have anywhere near Ky's present power. He will in effect be chief administrator for the president.

Thieu and Ky will continue to run things, although they may have trouble dividing the power among themselves.

As for the new cabinet, the senior generals intend to reserve four important posts for military men. Thieu and Ky may offer positions in the new government to some of the principal losing candidates, but we doubt that any of them will accept.

We hear some grumbling from field grade officers over the power exercised so far by the senior generals and their evident intention to keep wielding this power. There is no sign, however, that this dissatisfaction has taken on any threatening tones.

2. Communist China

The death toll is climbing.

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the rising casualty count in Canton, and believe conditions in Shanghai and Canton are probably similar to those in a number of other large Chinese cities.

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3. Arab States - Israel

King Husayn has told the US Ambassador that he believes Nasir has had a real change of heart and is now sincerely supporting a moderate approach to an Arab-Israeli settlement.

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It is almost certain, according to Husayn, that the Arab states can agree amongst themselves on some formula for ending belligerency with Israel. The Arabs, however, are skeptical about Israel's desire for a negotiated peace. They believe the Israelis prefer occupying the captured territories instead.

Husayn also says that Syria is now isolated. She is being blamed as most responsible for provoking the hostilities.

One net gain from the conference was the departure of Palestinian firebrand Shuqayri. He left in a huff after his proposals for terrorism were rejected out of hand.

4. Thailand

The government has arrested a number of important members of the Thai Communist party. This means that Communist operations in and around Bangkok will be temporarily crippled, but the effect on the guerrilla movement in the northeast is not yet altogether clear.

5. Greece-Turkey

The meeting of the Turkish and Greek prime ministers this weekend could open the way for a major diplomatic effort to resolve the Cyprus problem. While the two prime ministers are likely to concentrate on this one issue, they will also discuss what they regard as an increasing Soviet presence in the Arab world and eastern Mediterranean.

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6. Cambodia

Cambodia's leftists still pose a real problem for Sihanouk despite his efforts to curtail their activities.

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[redacted]
[redacted] the political situation is deteriorating and may even be reaching "critical" proportions. Although this may be somewhat overdrawn, it does reflect the growing concern within Sihanouk's entourage over the increased boldness of the Cambodian left.

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Sihanouk himself is also worried, but he believes the leftists are controlled by the Communist Chinese and fears that a real crackdown would bring a further deterioration in relations with Peking.

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